

CLAIMS

- 1 1. A cleaning apparatus mounted to a food slicing machine having a frame and a
2 continuous loop blade drivably mounted to the frame, the blade having opposing first and
3 second major surfaces and an axis, the cleaning apparatus comprising:
 - 4 (a) a body mounted to the frame;
 - 5 (b) a first scraper mounted to the body and having an edge seated against the first
6 surface of the blade for scraping matter from the blade;
 - 7 (c) a second scraper having a first end that is removably mounted to the body at a
8 point positioned laterally of the blade's axis, the second scraper also having an
9 edge at a second end seated against the second surface of the blade for scraping
10 matter from the blade;
 - 11 (d) a conduit mounted to the body at an aperture in the body that forms an inlet
12 positioned adjacent at least one of said scrapers, said conduit having a
13 passageway extending from the inlet to fluid communication with a pump for
14 pumping air past the scrapers and into said inlet and drawing matter scraped from
15 the blade by the scrapers into the inlet.

1 2. The cleaning apparatus in accordance with claim 1, further comprising a deflecting
2 panel mounted to the body adjacent the inlet and extending at least partially around the
3 scrapers for deflecting matter scraped from the blade into the inlet.

1 3. The cleaning apparatus in accordance with claim 2, wherein a gap is formed between
2 the deflector and said scrapers.

1 4. The cleaning apparatus in accordance with claim 2, wherein a longitudinal axis of the
2 second scraper is transverse to the blade's axis.

1 5. The cleaning apparatus in accordance with claim 4, wherein the body has a channel
2 through which a portion of the blade extends, and the inlet opens into the channel.

1 6. The cleaning apparatus in accordance with claim 5, wherein the second scraper's edge
2 seated against the blade is angled less than ninety degrees to the axis of the blade.

1 7. The cleaning apparatus in accordance with claim 6, wherein the first scraper has a first
2 end mounted to the body in the channel and a second end extending in the manner of a
3 cantilever away from the first end and terminating in the edge seated against the first
4 surface of the blade.

1 8. The cleaning apparatus in accordance with claim 6, wherein the first scraper is
2 substantially planar, and the plane containing the first scraper is transverse to a plane
3 containing the portion of the blade that is in the channel.

1 9. The cleaning apparatus in accordance with claim 6, wherein the second scraper has at
2 least one substantially planar region adjacent the edge at the second end, and the plane
3 containing that substantially planar section is transverse to the plane containing the
4 portion of the blade that is in the channel.

1 10. The cleaning apparatus in accordance with claim 6, wherein the first scraper's edge
2 seated against the blade is substantially perpendicular to the axis of the blade.

1 11. The cleaning apparatus in accordance with claim 6, wherein the first and second
2 scrapers are biased against the blade.

1 12. The cleaning apparatus in accordance with claim 1, wherein a longitudinal axis of the
2 second scraper is transverse to the blade's axis.

1 13. The cleaning apparatus in accordance with claim 12, further comprising a deflecting
2 panel mounted to the body adjacent the inlet and extending at least partially around the
3 scrapers for deflecting matter scraped from the blade into the inlet.

1 14. The cleaning apparatus in accordance with claim 13, wherein a gap is formed
2 between the deflector and said scrapers.

1 15. The cleaning apparatus in accordance with claim 13, wherein the body has a channel
2 through which a portion of the blade extends, and the inlet opens into the channel.

1 16. The cleaning apparatus in accordance with claim 15, wherein the second scraper's
2 edge seated against the blade is angled less than ninety degrees relative to the axis of the
3 blade.

1 17. The cleaning apparatus in accordance with claim 16, wherein the first scraper has a
2 first end mounted to the body in the channel and a second end extending in the manner of
3 a cantilever away from the first end and terminating in the edge seated against the first
4 surface of the blade.

1 18. The cleaning apparatus in accordance with claim 16, wherein the first scraper is
2 substantially planar, and the plane containing the first scraper is transverse to a plane
3 containing the portion of the blade that is in the channel.

1 19. The cleaning apparatus in accordance with claim 16, wherein the second scraper has
2 at least one substantially planar region adjacent the edge at the second end, and the plane
3 containing that substantially planar section is transverse to the plane containing the
4 portion of the blade that is in the channel.

1 20. The cleaning apparatus in accordance with claim 16, wherein the first scraper's edge
2 seated against the blade is substantially perpendicular to the axis of the blade.

1 21. The cleaning apparatus in accordance with claim 16, wherein the first and second
2 scrapers are biased against the blade.

3 22. The cleaning apparatus in accordance with claim 1, wherein the body has a channel
4 through which a portion of the blade extends, and the inlet opens into the channel.

1 23. The cleaning apparatus in accordance with claim 1, wherein the second scraper's
2 edge seated against the blade is angled less than ninety degrees relative to the axis of the
3 blade.

1 24. The cleaning apparatus in accordance with claim 1, further comprising a fastener
2 extending through an aperture in the first end of the second scraper and into the body at a
3 point positioned laterally of the blade's axis.

1 25. A cleaning apparatus mounted to a food slicing machine having a frame and a
2 continuous loop blade drivably mounted to the frame, the blade having opposing first and
3 second major surfaces and an axis, the cleaning apparatus comprising:

4 (a) a body mounted to the frame, the body having a channel through which a
5 portion of the blade extends;

6 (b) a first scraper having a first end mounted to the body in the channel and a
7 second end extending in the manner of a cantilever away from the first end and
8 terminating in an edge seated against the first surface of the blade for scraping
9 matter from the blade;

10 (c) a second scraper having a first end that is removably mounted to the body by a
11 fastener extending through an aperture in the first end of the second scraper and
12 into the body at a point positioned laterally of the blade's axis, the second scraper
13 terminating in an edge at a second, opposite end seated against the second surface
14 of the blade for scraping matter from the blade;

15 (d) a conduit mounted to the body at an aperture in the body that forms an inlet
16 opening into the channel and adjacent at least one of said scrapers, said conduit
17 having a passageway extending from the inlet to a pump for pumping air past the
18 scrapers and into said inlet and drawing matter scraped from the blade by the
19 scrapers into the inlet; and

20 (e) a deflecting panel mounted to the body adjacent the inlet and extending at least
21 partially around the scrapers for deflecting matter scraped from the blade into the
22 inlet, wherein a gap is formed between the deflector and said scrapers.

1 26. The cleaning apparatus in accordance with claim 25, wherein a longitudinal axis of
2 the second scraper is transverse to the blade's axis.

1 27. The cleaning apparatus in accordance with claim 26, wherein the second scraper's
2 edge seated against the blade is angled less than ninety degrees relative to the axis of the
3 blade.

1 28. The cleaning apparatus in accordance with claim 27, wherein the first scraper is
2 substantially planar, and the plane containing the first scraper is transverse to a plane
3 containing the portion of the blade that is in the channel.

1 29. The cleaning apparatus in accordance with claim 28, wherein the second scraper has
2 at least one substantially planar region adjacent the edge at the second end, and the plane
3 containing that substantially planar section is transverse to the plane containing the
4 portion of the blade that is in the channel.

1 30. The cleaning apparatus in accordance with claim 29, wherein the first scraper's edge

2 seated against the blade is substantially perpendicular to the axis of the blade.

1 31. The cleaning apparatus in accordance with claim 30, wherein the first and second

2 scrapers are biased against the blade.